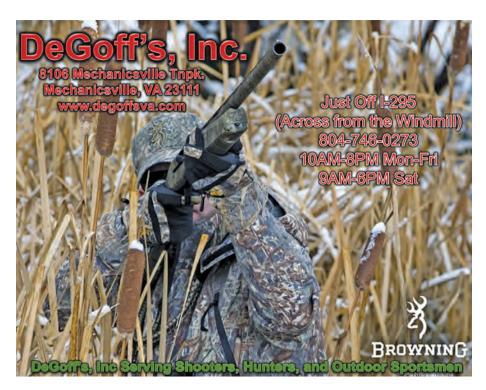
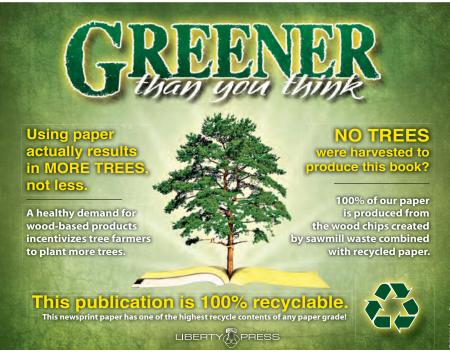
Department of Game and Inland Fisheries

# Virginia Dove, Woodcock, Snipe, Rail, September Canada Goose,

and September Teal 2012-2013 **Seasons and Bag Limits** 

www.HuntFishVA.com









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#### Cover: Clapper rail by ©Spike Knuth

This publication is to be used as a supplement to Hunting and Trapping in Virginia, 2012-2013 Regulations and is for general use and contains information regarding programs, policies, regulations, rules, or fees of the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF) current at the time of printing. Information may change after printing and any changes will supersede the information in this publication. VDGIF's programs, policies, regulations, rules, or fees can be found at www.dgif.virginia.gov . Specific laws are found in the Code of Virginia (http://leg1.state.va.us/ cgi-bin/legp504.exe?000+cod+TOC2901000) or the Game Department Regulation Manual (http://leg1state.va.us/ 000/reg/TOC04015.htm). For answers to specific questions about hunting and fishing, contact the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries office nearest you or visit www.dgif.virginia.gov.

Caution: More restrictive regulations may apply to National Wildlife Refuges open to public hunting. For additional information on federal regulations, contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Law Enforcement, 5721 South Laburnum Ave., Richmond, VA 23231; phone (804) 771-2883, 771-2280; FAX (804) 222-8421.

#### If you have questions or need assistance, contact the office nearest you.

#### **Richmond Headquarters**

4010 W. Broad St., P.O. Box 11104, Richmond, VA 23230-1104

(804) 367-1000: (804) 367-1278 TTY: Customer Service: 1-866-721-6911

Report Violations: 1-800-237-5712

#### **Regional Offices**

Region 1

3801 John Tyler Memorial Hwy. Charles City, VA 23030

(804) 829-6580

#### Region 2

1132 Thomas Jefferson Road

(434) 525-7522

Forest, VA 24551-9223

#### Region 3

1796 Highway Sixteen Marion, VA 24354

(276) 783-4860 TAZEWELL S BLAN Region 4

P.O. Box 96, 517 Lee Highway

Verona, VA 24482

(540) 248-9360

1320 Belman Road Fredericksburg, VA 22401

(540) 899-4169



#### Virginia's Wildlife Restoration Program and You

Hunters and trappers create many opportunities for Virginians to enjoy exceptional hunting, trapping, and wildlife watching. Through the Federal Assistance in Wildlife Restoration program, you help the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries make wildlifeoriented outdoor recreation even better each time you buy a firearm, ammunition, or a hunting or trapping license.

When you buy hunting-related equipment, a portion of the excise tax levied on the manufacturer goes to the Federal Assistance in Wildlife Restoration program. Virginia receives about \$7.5 million each year from this program, which funds a large portion of the Department's habitat management and wildlife population research projects.



www.wsfr75.com

#### **General Information**

#### Non-toxic Shot

Non-toxic shot approved by the Department [steel, bismuthtin, tungsten-bronze, tungsten-iron, tungsten-tin-bismuth, tungsten-polymer, tungsten matrix, tungsten-nickel-iron (HEVISHOT), tungsten-iron-nickel-tin (TINT), tungsten-iron-copper-nickel, tungsten-tin-iron, and tungsten-iron-polymer shots] is required for hunting all waterfowl, mergansers, coots, moorhens, gallinules, snipe, and rails. Lead shot is **not allowed** for hunting these species and **cannot be in possession** in the field while hunting these species. Shot size should be no larger than "T".

#### **Blaze Orange Requirement**

When hunting any species during the firearms deer seasons and youth deer day, every hunter (see exceptions below) or person accompanying a hunter shall wear a blaze orange hat or blaze orange upper body clothing that is visible from 360 degrees or display at least 100 square inches of solid blaze orange material at shoulder level within body reach and visible from 360 degrees. Hats may have a bill or brim color or design other than solid blaze orange. Hats shall not be in "camo" style. since the latter is designated to prevent visibility. A logo which does not detract from visibility may be worn on a blaze orange hat.

Blaze orange is not required by waterfowl hunters, dove hunters, individuals participating in hunting dog field trials, and fox hunters on horseback without firearms, or during the muzzle-loading deer season(s).

#### Migratory Game Bird Hunters **Get HIP!**

All hunters (whether licensed or exempt from being licensed) who plan to hunt doves, waterfowl, rails, woodcock, snipe, coots, gallinules, or moorhens in Virginia must be registered with the Virginia Harvest Information Program (HIP). HIP is required each year and a NEW REGISTRATION NUMBER is needed for the 2012–2013 hunting season. To obtain a new number, migratory game bird hunters can register online at www.HuntFishVA.com or call 1-888-788-9772.

## Download the Free Hunt Fish VA App

for your iPhone®, iPod touch®, or Android™ phone

**HuntFishVA.com** 

#### Hunter Education Classes Available Statewide

To locate a class go to: www.HuntFishVA.com/hunting/education or call 888-516-0844



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STATE HUNTING AND FISHING REGULATIONS

# Benefits of placing an ad in the official VDGIF Regulations Guide:

- Wildlife sports = \$121 million per year in VA
- Your business can reach each license holder with one ad
- Trusted publication is the official VDGIF Regulations Guide
- Required reading for lawful hunters and anglers
- Rules are read and re-read for an entire season

## For Advertising Information Call: 1-800-296-6402

www.huntandfishregs.com





#### Virginia Wildlife Leash

Our Virginia Wildlife 6' long, high tensile, black and tan nylon webbing leash features a sturdy nickel-plated snap hook.

Item # VW-137

\$11.95

(plus \$7.25 S&H)

To Order visit the Department's website at: www.dgif.virginia.gov or call (804) 367-2569.

## **Create Lasting Memories**

#### **Apprentice Hunting License**

The apprentice hunting license serves as a first-time Virginia resident or nonresident hunting license and is good for 2 years.

The license holder must be accompanied and directly supervised by a mentor over 18 who has on his or her person a valid Virginia hunting license. "Accompanied and directly supervised" occurs when a person over 18 maintains a close visual and verbal contact with, provides adequate direction to, and can immediately assume control of the firearm from the apprentice hunter.

The license entitles the holder to a onetime deferral of the hunter education requirement.

The apprentice license does not qualify the holder to purchase a regular hunting license, nor exempt the holder from compliance with Department regulations.

A bear, deer, turkey license and all applicable stamps or permits are required in addition to the apprentice license.

Previous Virginia resident and nonresident hunting license holders may not use an apprentice license.

To learn more call 1-866-721-6911 or log on to www.HuntFishVA.com.



#### Legacy Hunting or Fishing License

Issued only to an individual who is younger than two years of age and is valid for the lifetime of the license holder regardless of any change in that person's status as a resident or nonresident.

Legacy hunting license is valid until the individual's twelfth birthday. Upon proof of completion of a hunter education course or equivalent, this license is transferable to a lifetime hunting license at no additional charge.

The Legacy hunting or fishing license is available by application through the Richmond office or by mail. The cost is \$125 for resident children and \$250 for non-resident children.

#### Where to Obtain a License

- ◆ Online: At www.HuntFishVA.com. Select the license(s) you want, pay with your VISA or MasterCard, and print your license(s) after you pay.
- ◆ In Person: Sold by some clerks of the Circuit Court and hundreds of license agents around the state.
- ◆ By Phone: Customer Service, call 1-866-721-6911 during regular business hours.

#### **License Fees**

Licenses are valid for one year from the date of purchase except the bear, deer, turkey license (only valid July 1-June 30), the Virginia migratory waterfowl conservation stamp, the apprentice hunting license, and lifetime licenses.

## RESIDENT HUNTING LICENSES Sportsman's License

#### **Hunting License** (age 16 and older)

1 year license	\$23.00
2 year license	\$44.00
3 year license	\$65.00
4 year license	\$86.00

#### County or City Hunting License

(age 16 and older)......\$16.00 For county or city of residence only

Apprentice Hunting License ....... \$11.00 Annual bear, deer, turkey license and all applicable licenses, stamps, or permits are required in addition to this license. Valid for 2 years from date of purchase.

#### **Senior Citizen Hunting License**

Special Resident Annual Hunting License for Partially Disabled Veterans ....\$12.00 Resident veterans rated and certified by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs as having at least 70 percent service-connected disability upon certification. Annual bear, deer, turkey license and all applicable licenses, stamps or permits are required in addition to this license. Can be purchased in person at the Richmond office or via a mailin application. Application available online.

#### **Youth Combination Hunting License**

(age 12 to 15) ......\$16.00 Includes hunting license, bear, deer, turkey license, archery license, crossbow license, and muzzleloading license.

#### **Junior Lifetime Hunting License**

#### **Lifetime Hunting License**

Λαο 12-44

Annual bear, deer, turkey license and all applicable licenses, stamps, or permits are required in addition to this license. Available through the Richmond office or by mail.

\$260.00

Age 12-44	\$260.00
(hunter education cour	se required
under age 16)	
Age 45-50	\$210.00
Age 51-55	\$160.00
Age 56-60	\$110.00
Age 61-64	\$60.00
Age 65 and over	\$20.00

## Totally and Permanently Disabled Resident Special Hunting Lifetime

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For qualified resident disabled veterans. Includes hunting license, bear, deer, turkey license, archery license, crossbow license, muzzleloading license, and freshwater fishing license. All other applicable licenses, stamps, or permits are required in addition to this license. Can be obtained in person at the Richmond office or via a mail-in application. Application available online.

#### Service-Connected Totally and Permanently Disabled Resident Veteran Hunting Lifetime License......\$0 For qualified resident disabled veterans.

Includes hunting license, bear, deer, turkey license, archery license, crossbow license, and muzzleloading license. All other applicable licenses, stamps, or permits are required in addition to this license. Can be obtained in person at the Richmond office or via a mailin application. Application available online.

#### **Access Permit**

- Any person, 17 years of age or older, accessing a Wildlife Management Area or DGIF Fishing Lake must have in possession a valid hunting, freshwater fishing, or trapping license; current boat registration; or Access Permit.
- The Access permit requirement does not apply to Department-owned boat ramps or segments of the Appalachian Trail on Department-owned land.
- The Permit fee is \$4 for a daily permit or \$23 for an annual permit. The Access Permit may be purchased online or at any license agent.
- Daily group rates are available. For more information go to www.HuntFishVA.com/accesspermit/.

#### NONRESIDENT HUNTING LICENSES

## Nonresident Hunting License (age 16 and older) ......\$111.00

#### Nonresident 3-Day Trip License

(age16 and older) ......\$60.00 Must be 3 consecutive hunting days; no Sunday hunting.

#### Nonresident Apprentice Hunting

Valid for 2 years from date of purchase.

#### Special Nonresident Annual Hunting License for Partially Disabled

## Nonresident Youth Hunting License (under age 12) .......\$13.00

#### 

#### Nonresident Youth Combination

**Hunting License** (under age 16) ... \$31.00 Includes hunting license, bear, deer, turkey license, archery license, crossbow license, and muzzleloading license.

#### Nonresident Legacy Hunting

continued on pg. 10

#### **Nonresident Lifetime Hunting**

Annual bear, deer, turkey license and all applicable licenses, stamps or permits are required in addition to this license. Available through the Richmond office or by mail.

## MISCELLANEOUS LICENSES, STAMPS, AND PERMITS

One or more of the following may be required in addition to a hunting license.

#### Licenses:

Stationary Shore Blind ...... \$23.00

When purchasing a stationary blind license, you must provide GPS coordinates along with a description of where the blind is located. These coordinates are needed to help evaluate whether blinds are within the required distances, and they will help in future improvements of the blind licensing process. Coordinates should be reported as latitude and longitude and can be entered in one of three formats: 1) Degrees, minutes, seconds (35° 45′ 52″), 2) Degrees and decimal minutes (35° 45.87′), or 3) decimal degrees (35.76°).

Floating Blind	\$40.50
Offshore Blind Stake	\$5.50
(limit 4 per licensee)	

All blind licenses are available through the Department's point of sale system. Hunters have the option of requesting a blind plate be sent to them if they do not have one. The blind plate, if requested, and a decal for the plate will be mailed within 3 to 5 business days. Hunters who purchase a blind license online will be able to print out a copy of their application information. A license for their blind will be emailed immediately after the sale is complete.

**Hunting (Shooting) Preserve** ....... \$23.00 To hunt within the boundaries of a licensed shooting preserve, in lieu of other required licenses.

#### Stamps:

Federal Migratory Bird Stamp .... \$15.00 Required of persons 16 years of age and older to take migratory waterfowl, in addition to hunting license and sold at U.S. Post Offices or online at www.duckstamp.com. Stamp must be signed in ink across the face and in possession during hunting. Valid July 1–June 30.

Virginia Migratory Waterfowl
Conservation Stamp ......\$10.00
Required of persons 16 years of age and older, unless license exempt. Sold through

the point of sale system or online.

Valid July 1–June 30.

#### Permits:

Access Permit......\$4.00 per day or \$23.00 per year See page 9 for more information.



## Subscribe Free Online www.HuntFishVA.com/subscribe

#### **Dove**

First Segment: September 1–October 13

**Hours:** September 1–7

12:00 noon until sunset.September 8–October 13

One-half hour before sunrise until sunset.



Dove; illustration @Spike Knuth

Second Segment: October 17–27

Third Segment: December 28–January 12

Hours: One-half hour before sunrise until sunset.

Bag Limit: 15 per day, 30 in possession. Composed of mourning doves and

white-winged doves, singly or in combination.

#### **Dove Hunting On Wildlife Management Areas**

Dove hunting permitted within the boundaries of the following wildlife management areas: Amelia, Briery Creek, Cavalier, Chickahominy, Dick Cross, Fairystone, Featherfin, Hardware River, Hog Island (Carlisle Tract only), Horsepen, James River, Pettigrew, C.F. Phelps, Powhatan, and White Oak Mountain.

First Segment: September 1–October 13

Hours: September 1-7

12:00 noon until sunset.

Hunting permitted on Saturday, Labor Day, Wednesday only.

September 8-October 13

One-half hour before sunrise until sunset.

Hunting permitted on Wednesdays, and Saturdays only.

Second Segment: October 17–27

Third Segment: December 28-January 12

**Hours:** One-half hour before sunrise until sunset.

Hunting permitted daily except Sundays

Bag Limit: 15 per day, 30 in possession. Composed of mourning doves and

white-winged doves, singly or in combination.

#### **September Canada Goose**

Season: September 1–25

Hunt Zone: Statewide

Hours:

East of I-95

September 1–15: One-half hour before sunrise to

one-half hour after sunset.

September 17–25: One-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

Canada goose

#### West of I-95

September 1–22: One-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour <u>after sunset</u>.

September 24–25: One-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

Bag Limit: 10 per day, 20 in possession.

September Canada goose hunting is not permitted within the boundaries of the Amelia and Dick Cross Wildlife Management Areas.

**Special Requirements:** In addition to a HIP registration number, a federal migratory duck stamp and a Virginia Migratory Waterfowl Conservation Stamp (unless license exempt) are also required to hunt geese during this season.

**Note:** Electronic calls and unplugged shotguns are not allowed for hunting Canada geese.

#### **September Teal**

Season: September 17–September 29

Hunt Zone: East of I-95

Season: September 24-September 29

Hunt Zone: West of I-95

Hours: One-half hour before sunrise until sunset.

Bag Limit: 4 per day, 8 in possession.\*

(any combination of blue-winged and

green-winged teal)

\*Note: Hunters are cautioned to *positively identify* their ducks before shooting, since other species, such as wood ducks, may be in the area.

**Special Requirements:** In addition to a HIP registration number, a federal migratory duck stamp and a Virginia Migratory Waterfowl Conservation Stamp (unless license exempt) are also required to hunt teal during this season.



Green-winged teal; illustration ©Spike Knuth

#### **Rails**

Season: September 8-29

October 1-November 17

Hours: One-half hour before sunrise until sunset.

Bag Limit: Clapper/King 15-counted together daily,

30 in possession.

Sora/Virginia 25-counted together daily,

25 in possession.



Sora rail; illustration ©Spike Knuth

#### **Attention Rail and Snipe Hunters**

Virginia requires the use of non-toxic shot for hunting rails and snipe. Non-toxic shot is required for hunting all waterfowl, mergansers, coots, rails, snipe, moorhens, and gallinules.

#### **Snipe**

Season: October 4-8

October 22-January 31

Hours: One-half hour before sunrise until sunset.

Bag Limit: 8 per day, 16 in possession.



Common snipe; illustration ©Spike Knuth



illustration ©Spike Knuth

#### Woodcock

Season: October 27-November 2

December 6-January 12

**Hours:** One-half hour before sunrise until sunset.

Bag Limit: 3 per day, 6 in possession.

## What Terms Do I Need to Understand?

Migratory Birds are birds protected by federal law as a result of treaties signed with other countries. Protected migratory birds are listed in Title 50 Code of Federal Regulations, Section. 10.13. This list includes almost all birds found in the United States with the exception of the house sparrow, feral pigeon (commonly called rock dove), European starling, Eurasian collared-dove, mute swan, and upland game birds (which are protected by state laws).

All migratory birds are protected. However, a subset of migratory birds classified as migratory game birds may be hunted in accordance with State and Federal regulations. The list of migratory game birds includes species of ducks, geese (including brant), swans, mergansers, doves, cranes, rails, coots, gallinules and moorhens, woodcock, and snipe.

**Daily bag limit** means the maximum number of migratory game birds of a single species or combination (aggregate) of

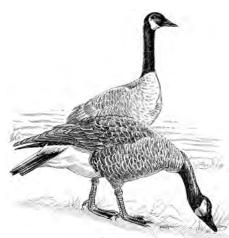


illustration ©Spike Knuth

species permitted to be taken by one person in any one day during the open season in any one specified geographic area for which a daily bag limit is prescribed.

Aggregate daily bag limit means the maximum number of migratory game birds permitted to be taken by one person in any one day during the open season when such person hunts in more than one specified geographic area and/or for more than one species for which a combined daily bag limit is prescribed. The aggregate daily bag limit is equal to, but shall not exceed, the largest daily bag limit prescribed for any one species or for any one specified geographic area in which taking occurs.

Possession limit means the maximum number of migratory game birds of a single species or a combination of species permitted to be possessed by any one person when lawfully taken in the United States in any one specified geographic area for which a possession limit is prescribed.

Aggregate possession limit means the maximum number of migratory game birds of a single species or combination of species taken in the United States permitted to be possessed by any one person when taking and possession occurs in more than one specified geographic area for which a possession limit is prescribed. The aggregate possession limit is equal to, but shall not exceed, the largest possession limit prescribed for any one of the species or specified geographic areas in which taking and possession occurs.

**Personal abode** means one's principal or ordinary home or dwelling place, as distinguished from one's temporary or transient place of abode or dwelling such as a hunt-

ing club, or any club house, cabin, tent or trailer house used as a hunting club, or any hotel, motel or rooming house used during a hunting, pleasure or business trip.

### Migratory bird preservation facility means:

- Any person who, at their residence or place of business and for hire or other consideration; or
- Any taxidermist, cold-storage facility or locker plant which, for hire or other consideration; or
- Any hunting club which, in the normal course of operations; receives, possesses, or has in custody any migratory game birds belonging to another person for purposes of picking, cleaning, freezing, processing, storage, or shipment.

Normal agricultural planting, harvesting, or post-harvest manipulation means a planting or harvesting undertaken for the purpose of producing and gathering a crop, or manipulation after such harvest and removal of grain, that is conducted in accordance with official recommendations of State Extension Specialists of the Cooperative Extension Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Normal agricultural operation means a normal agricultural planting, harvesting, post-harvest manipulation, or agricultural practice that is conducted in accordance with official recommendations of State Extension Specialists of the Cooperative Extension Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Normal soil stabilization practice means a planting for agricultural soil erosion control or post-mining land reclamation conducted in accordance with official recommendations of State Extension Specialists of the Cooperative Extension Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture for agricultural soil erosion control.

Baited area means any area on which salt, grain, or other feed has been placed, exposed, deposited, distributed, or scattered, if that salt, grain, or other feed could serve as a lure or attraction for migratory game birds to, on, or over areas where hunters are attempting to take them. Any such area will remain a baited area for ten days following the complete removal of all such salt, grain, or other feed.

**Baiting** means the direct or indirect placing, exposing, depositing, distributing, or scattering of salt, grain, or other feed that could serve as a lure or attraction for migratory game birds to, on, or over any areas where hunters are attempting to take them.

Manipulation means the alteration of natural vegetation or agricultural crops by activities that include but are not limited to mowing, shredding, discing, rolling, chopping, trampling, flattening, burning, or herbicide treatments. The term manipulation does not include the distributing or scattering of grain, seed, or other feed after removal from or storage on the field where grown.

Natural vegetation means any nonagricultural, native, or naturalized plant species that grows at a site in response to planting or from existing seeds or other propagules. The term natural vegetation does not include planted millet. However, planted millet that grows on its own in subsequent years after the year of planting is considered natural vegetation.

#### Lawful Hunting Methods

It is legal to take migratory game birds including waterfowl, coots, and cranes, on or over the following lands or areas that are not otherwise baited areas:

- Standing crops or flooded standing crops (including aquatics);
- Standing, flooded, or manipulated natural vegetation; flooded harvested croplands; or lands or areas where seeds or grains have been scattered solely as the result of a normal agricultural planting, harvesting, postharvest manipulation, or normal soil stabilization practice;
- From a blind or other place of concealment camouflaged with natural vegetation;
- From a blind or other place of concealment camouflaged with vegetation from agricultural crops, as long as such camouflaging does not result in the exposing, depositing, distributing or scattering of grain or other feed; or
- Standing or flooded standing agricultural crops where grain is inadvertently scattered solely as a result of a hunter entering or exiting a hunting area, placing decoys, or retrieving downed birds.

It is **legal** to take migratory game birds, **except waterfowl**, **coots and cranes**, on or over lands or areas that are not otherwise baited areas, and where grain or other feed has been distributed or scattered solely as the result of manipulation of an agricultural crop or other feed on the land where grown, or solely as the result of a normal agricultural operation.

#### Wanton waste of migratory game birds:

No person shall kill or cripple any migratory game bird without making a reasonable effort to retrieve the bird, and retain it in his actual custody, at the place where taken or between that place and either (a) his automobile or principal means of land transportation; or (b) his personal abode or temporary or transient place of lodging; or (c) a migratory bird preservation facility; or (d) a post office; or (e) a common carrier facility.

Non-toxic Shot: No person may take ducks, geese (including brant), swans, coots, mergansers, moorhens, gallinules, rails or snipe while possessing shot (either in shotshells or as loose shot for muzzle-loading) other than approved non-toxic shot. For a list of approved non-toxic shot, see page 5 or http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/CurrentBirdissues/nontoxic.htm.

**Opening Day of a Season:** No person on the opening day of the season shall possess any freshly killed migratory game birds in excess of the daily bag limit, or aggregate daily bag limit, whichever applies.

Field Possession Limit: No person shall possess, have in custody, or transport more than the daily bag limit or aggregate daily bag limit, whichever applies, of migratory game birds, tagged or not tagged, at or between the place where taken and either (a) his automobile or principal means of land transportation; or (b) his personal abode or temporary or transient place of lodging; or (c) a migratory bird preservation facility; or (d) a post office; or (e) a common carrier facility.

**Tagging requirement:** No person shall put or leave any migratory game birds at any place (other than at his personal abode), or in the custody of another person for picking, cleaning, processing, shipping, trans-

portation, or storage (including temporary storage), or for the purpose of having taxidermy services performed, unless such birds have a tag attached, signed by the hunter, stating his address, the total number and species of birds, and the date such birds were killed. Migratory game birds being transported in any vehicle as the personal baggage of the possessor shall not be considered as being in storage or temporary storage.

**Custody of birds of another:** No person shall receive or have in custody any migratory game birds belonging to another person unless such birds are properly tagged.

**Termination of possession:** Subject to all other requirements of this part, the possession of birds taken by any hunter shall be deemed to have ceased when such birds have been delivered by him to another person as a gift; or have been delivered by him to a post office, a common carrier, or a migratory bird preservation facility and consigned for transport by the Postal Service or a common carrier to some person other than the hunter.

**Gift of migratory game birds:** No person may receive, possess, or give to another, any freshly killed migratory game birds as a gift, except at the personal abodes of the donor or donee, unless such birds have a tag attached, signed by the hunter who took the birds, stating such hunter's address, the total number and species of birds and the date such birds were taken.

**Transportation of birds of another:** No person shall transport migratory game birds belonging to another person unless such birds are properly tagged.

**Species identification requirement:** No person shall transport within the United

States any migratory game birds, except doves and band-tailed pigeons, unless the head or one fully feathered wing remains attached to each such bird at all times while being transported from the place where taken until they have arrived at the personal abode of the possessor or a migratory bird preservation facility.

Marking package or container: No person shall transport by the Postal Service or a common carrier migratory game birds unless the package or container in which such birds are transported has the name and address of the shipper and the consignee and an accurate statement of the numbers of each species of birds therein contained clearly and conspicuously marked on the outside thereof.

More restrictive regulations may apply to National Wildlife Refuges opened to public hunting. For additional information on refuge specific regulations see http://www.fws.gov/refuges/.



illustration ©Spike Knuth

#### Unlawful Hunting Methods

## No persons shall take migratory game birds:

- With a trap, snare, net, rifle, pistol, swivel gun, shotgun larger than 10 gauge, punt gun, battery gun, machine gun, fish hook, poison, drug, explosive, or stupefying substance;
- With a shotgun of any description capable of holding more than three shells, unless it is plugged with a onepiece filler, incapable of removal without disassembling the gun, so its total capacity does not exceed three shells. This restriction does not apply to crows and during dates States haves selected under the Conservation Order for light geese (i.e. greater and lesser snow and Ross's geese);
- From or by means, aid, or use of a sinkbox or any other type of low floating device, having a depression affording the hunter a means of concealment beneath the surface of the water;
- From or by means, aid, or use of any motor vehicle, motor-driven land conveyance, or aircraft of any kind, except that paraplegics and persons missing one or both legs may take from any stationary motor vehicle or stationary motor-driven land conveyance;
- From or by means of any motorboat or other craft having a motor attached, or any sailboat, unless the motor has been completely shut off and/or the sails furled, and its progress there from has ceased:

- By the use or aid of live birds as decoys; although not limited to, it shall be a violation of this paragraph for any person to take migratory waterfowl on an area where tame or captive live ducks or geese are present unless such birds are and have been for a period of 10 consecutive days prior to such taking, confined within an enclosure which substantially reduces the audibility of their calls and totally conceals such birds from the sight of wild migratory waterfowl;
- By the use or aid of recorded or electrically amplified bird calls or sounds, or recorded or electrically amplified imitations of bird calls or sounds. This restriction does not apply to crows or during dates States haves selected under the Conservation Order for light geese (i.e. greater and lesser snow and Ross's geese);
- By means or aid of any motor driven land, water, or air conveyance, or any sailboat used for the purpose of or resulting in the concentrating, driving, rallying, or stirring up of any migratory bird;
- By the aid of baiting, or on or over any baited area, where a person knows or reasonably should know that the area is or has been baited.

Report Wildlife Violations 1-800-237-5712 or e-mail:

wildcrime@dgif.virginia.gov

#### **Waterfowl Blind Laws**

**General:** The laws governing the licensing and location of waterfowl blinds are included in the Code of Virginia, promulgated by the General Assembly. These are implemented by regulations adopted by the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.

Blinds Generally: Blinds located west of I-95 are not subject to these laws and regulations, nor do they apply to blinds located in Accomack and Northampton counties. No new blind licenses will be issued for additional shore and stationary blinds in the city of Virginia Beach. Floating blinds may not anchor within 500 yards of any licensed stationary blind.

Stationary Blinds: Is a structure erected at a fixed location either on the shores of the public waters or in the public waters for the purpose of hunting and shooting waterfowl. A stationary blind shall be (1) of such size and strength that it can be occupied by and conceal one or more hunters, or (2) large enough to accommodate and conceal a boat or skiff from

which one or more hunters intend to hunt or shoot waterfowl.

Floating Blind: Is a floating device, whether in motion or anchored, that can be occupied by and conceal one or more hunters, uses a means of concealment other than the device's paint or coloration, and is used in the public waters for the purpose of hunting and shooting waterfowl.

Offshore Blind Stake Site: Is a specific location in the public waters where a stake is licensed for the purpose of hunting and shooting waterfowl from a licensed floating blind. Valid only in the counties of Caroline, King George, Essex, Westmoreland, and Richmond.

Waterfowl Blind Licenses: Stationary, floating blind, and offshore blind stake licenses are available from any license agent through the Department's point of sale system, or online on our website (www.HuntFishVA.com). Hunters have the option of requesting a blind plate be sent to them if they do not have one. The

#### When Blind Licenses Are Sold:

*Riparian owners, their lessees or permittees:* May 1 through June 15; plates with current decal must be affixed to a stake or blind by June 30.

Nonriparian license for a stationary blind in the public waters previously licensed the year before: July 1 through August 15; plates with current decal must be affixed to a stake or blind by August 31.

Nonriparian license for a stationary blind in the public waters not previously licensed the year before: September 1 through October 15; plates with current decal must be affixed to a stake or blind by November 1.

Floating blind licenses: on or after July 1.

*Offshore Blind Stake Site license* for nonriparian owner who has not already licensed and erected a stationary blind (see page 22): November 1–10.

*Offshore Blind Stake Site license* for riparian owner who has already licensed and erected a stationary blind (see page 22): November 11–15.

blind plate, if requested, and a decal for the plate will be mailed within 3 to 5 business days. Hunters who purchase a blind license online will be able to print out a copy of their application information. A license for their blind will be emailed immediately after the sale is complete. The license plate furnished must be affixed to the blind at a location where it can be easily seen.

Spacing of Blinds Generally: Except for adjacent landowners, stationary blinds may be placed no closer than 500 yards to each other, except they may be placed closer together with the mutual consent of the licensees involved. Except for county exceptions, listed on pages 21 and 22, floating blinds may be positioned no closer than 500 yards to any licensed stationary blind, whether it is occupied or not, without consent of the owner of the neighboring blind. Stationary blinds cannot be located in any water having a depth of more than eight feet at mean high water.

Rights of Riparian Landowner: The owners of riparian rights or their invitees shall not be required to obtain a stationary blind license when hunting waterfowl from such a blind located on the riparian owner's property. However, a stationary blind license shall be required in order to afford the riparian owners the protections provided by Virginia law. The owner of riparian rights, his lessee or permittee has



exclusive privileges of licensing blinds on his shoreline and prior rights of licensing and erecting blinds in the public waters in front of such shoreline. These blinds shall not be located in water deeper than eight feet at mean high tide, nor shall they be further than halfway across the body of water from the riparian owner's shoreline, except on the shores and waters of Back Bay in the City of Virginia Beach where such blinds are limited to (i) the riparian owner's shoreline at the mean low water mark or (ii) blinds erected and licensed by the riparian owner in 2011. The exercise of these prior rights is valid when a license has been obtained between May 1 and June 15 and displayed on a stake or blind by June 30. No other blind may be located within 500 vards of this stake or blind without consent of the owner, permittee, or lessee. The stake must be replaced by an erected stationary blind as specified by Code by November 1 to be a licensed blind under the law. Where the lands of two property owners adjoin, each may place blinds on his property or in the public waters in front of his property without regard to the placement of blinds on his neighbor's property.

Rights of Nonriparian Owner: Although the law states that a riparian owner who does not license a blind on his shore by June 30 forfeits the privilege for that season, it does not mean a nonriparian owner can erect or license a blind on the property of another without permission. It does mean that a riparian owner cannot license a blind on his shore after June 30 that would deny someone else from having a blind in the public waters within 500 yards of the shore unless he has previously staked and licensed a blind in that location. If a landowner has not licensed a stake or a blind by June 30, a nonriparian

owner may license a location in the public waters in front of such land, providing no other location within 500 yards has been so licensed. Again, such blind cannot be located in water in excess of eight feet in depth at mean high tide. A nonriparian license for a blind that was licensed the previous year can be purchased from July 1 through August 15, and a plate with current deal must be affixed to a stake or blind by August 31. A nonriparian license for a blind not previously licensed the year before can be purchased from September 1 through October 15, and a plate and current decal must be affixed to it by November 1.

Of course, if a location is secured through agreement with a riparian landowner having control of the near shoreline, the site may be licensed as applies to a permittee or lessee of a landowner. A nonriparian owner, having licensed a blind in a given location, has first option to license such blind each year unless the riparian landowner having claim to that location exercises his right to license it.

Riparian Owner's Rights Renewed Annually: If a riparian owner fails to exercise his options, he may elect to do so the following year, thus preempting any rights of nonriparian owners who have erected blinds in the public waters in front of his shoreline.

Penalty for Violations: Any person who hunts or shoots migratory waterfowl in the public waters of this Commonwealth from a boat, float, raft or other buoyant craft or device within 500 yards of any legally licensed erected stationary blind of another without the consent of the licensee shall be guilty of a criminal offense that is punishable as a Class 2 misdemeanor.

This provision shall not apply to any person when in active pursuit of a visible crippled waterfowl which was legally shot by the person.

Additionally, any person who erects a stationary blind within 500 yards of another licensed blind without permission of the licensee is guilty of a trespass, and the owner of the blind so encroached upon may maintain an action for damages. It should be noted that this is a criminal offense. It should also be noted that by November 1 a stationary blind must be erected; therefore, a stake with a stationary license affixed thereto cannot be considered to be a stationary blind after November 1.

Loss of Blind License: The violation of any of the provisions of law or regulations as to hunting migratory waterfowl from licensed blinds shall constitute a Class 2 misdemeanor and, in addition to other authorized penalties, the trial court shall immediately revoke the license of the blind owner who will have the same privileges as a new applicant to apply for a blind license the following year. Any blind for which the license has been revoked shall be destroyed by the former licensee or a conservation police officer.

Accidental Destruction of Blind: If a blind is destroyed in any manner beyond the control of the owner, it may be replaced within 30 days without losing the position it formerly occupied.

**Number of Blinds Permitted:** No club or individual who does not own riparian rights shall be permitted to license more than two stationary blinds in the public waters in any one season.

**Floating Blinds, Where Prohibited:** The use of floating blinds is prohibited in the

counties of Caroline, King George, Essex, Westmoreland, and Richmond in any of the public marshes, guts, streams, branches, creeks, or bays, including among others, Green Bay and Port Tobago Bay, flowing into the Rappahannock River or in any of its tributaries, or in Buckner's Creek, Nomini Creek and Nomini Bay, flowing into the Potomac River or any of its tributaries, except from a licensed Offshore Blind Stake Site. (See below for details.)

#### Offshore Blind Stake Sites:

Offshore blind stakes shall be removed from the public waters within 15 days of the close of the waterfowl season.

#### Nonriparian Owner:

A nonriparian owner who has not already licensed and erected a stationary blind for the year in the 5-county area identified above and who holds a valid hunting license, may apply for a license for offshore blind stake sites. The license for an offshore blind stake site may be obtained from November 1 through November 10 of each year. Up to 4 offshore blind stake site licenses may be purchased per licensee. Once obtained, a stake shall be erected on the site and a license plate supplied with the license for that season shall be affixed thereto by November 10.

#### Riparian Owner:

From November 11 through November 15 of each year, any riparian owner and any other person who has already licensed and erected a stationary blind for the year in the areas noted above, and who holds a valid hunting license, may apply for a license for any remaining offshore blind stake sites. Up to 4 offshore blind stake site licenses may be purchased per licensee. Once obtained, a stake shall be erected on the

site, and a license plate supplied with the license for that season shall be affixed thereto by November 15.

## Placement of Blinds in Fairfax, Prince William, and Stafford counties:

No stationary blind shall be more than 300 yards from shore, except in waters less than 600 yards wide, in which case the blind may be no more than half the width of the water from shore. This distance is measured from the low water mark.

No license shall be issued for stationary waterfowl blinds on the Potomac River in Fairfax County adjacent to National Park Service lands in the Great Hunting Creek and Dyke Marsh areas.

Floating Blinds in Fairfax, Prince William, and Stafford counties: Floating blinds must be anchored and located no closer to another's blind than 400 yards unless person has written permission of blind owner. Such blinds must be taken in at a half hour after sunset.

In the area adjacent to the National Park Service lands in the Great Hunting Creek and Dyke Marsh areas floating blinds must be attached to a Game Department-placed post or buoy. Only one floating blind per post. These are on a first-come, first-served basis, sites to be occupied no earlier than 4:00 A.M. or later than one half hour after sunset, and blinds removed each day. Hunters in licensed floating blinds can hunt from designated locations during legal shooting hours on Thanksgiving Day and on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays during the open season.

Placement of Blinds Adjacent to Certain Wildlife Management Areas: No stationary blinds shall be licensed in the waters adjacent to the Chickahominy Wildlife Management Area in Charles City County, the Game Farm Marsh WMA in New Kent County, and the Ragged Island WMA in Isle of Wight County.

**Occupied or Unoccupied Blinds:** Hunters may not hunt within 500 yards of any licensed blind whether it is occupied or not.

**Crippled Waterfowl:** When in active pursuit of a visible waterfowl which was legally shot, the hunter may pursue such waterfowl without regard to the 500 yard prohibition protecting licensed waterfowl blinds.

Jump Shooting from Boats: Permitted where appropriate landowner permission has been secured or where generally permitted on public waters. Consult with local game warden to learn local restrictions. Not permitted within 500 yards of a licensed stationary blind, except with consent of blind owner. If a boat is used for jump shooting and is modified for the purpose of concealing the hunter, it is a

floating blind and must be licensed as such. Jump shooting is not permitted from a boat having a motor attached or any sailboat unless the motor has been completely shut off and/or the sails furled and its progress therefrom has ceased.

Abandoned Blinds: Those licensing stationary blinds in the public waters shall remove same when licenses are allowed to expire or when they no longer intend to use them.

Waterfowl Blind Cleanup: Hunters are asked to remove unnatural materials, such as netting, camouflage cloth, wire, or twine from stationary blinds after the waterfowl hunting season. Birds such as ospreys, eagles, and owls often use blind structures for perching and/or nesting. Such materials, if left after the hunting season, can cause injury and even death to these birds if they become entangled in the material.

#### Sportsmen: Boat Smart, Wear Your Life Jacket

Wearing a life jacket may save your life. It is estimated that 80 percent of boating-related drownings could have been prevented had the victim been wearing a life jacket.

The newest type of life jacket, the manual or automatic inflatable, is lightweight and comfortable. They are versatile enough to be worn at any time of the year, and fit easily over a hunting coat or sweater.

#### **Safety Tips:**

- Check the weather before leaving.
- Wear a life iacket or float coat.
- Remain seated and keep weight evenly distributed.
- Anchor from the bow, never from the stern.
- Properly load your boat.
- Stay with your boat if it should capsize.
- Dress for the water temperature—guard against hypothermia.
- Leave the alcohol at home.

For more information contact the Boating Safety Coordinator at 804-367-1125.

## Areas Closed to Waterfowl Hunting

The discharge of firearms is prohibited within 750 yards of a wildlife sanctuary in any city in Virginia.

## Taking, attempting to take, pursuing or disturbing waterfowl is prohibited in the following areas:

- In Virginia Beach on the waters and from the shores of Crystal Lake, Linkhorn and Broad Bay and Long Creek and their tributaries.
- ◆ Hog Island State Waterfowl Refuge in Surry County and all of the waters of the James River within a radius of 1,000 yards around that island, with the exception of blinds erected by the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
- ◆ The waters of the James River around Presquile National Wildlife Refuge (except for the Turkey Island Cutoff navigational channel) to the mean low water mark on the opposite shore.
- illustration ©Spike Knuth

- Gaston Reservoir (Roanoke River) from a point beginning at High Rock and extending to the John H. Kerr Dam.
- Within the posted section of the Rappahannock River adjacent to Lands End Waterfowl Refuge in King George County.
- ◆ The waters of the Great Hunting Creek embayment within the City of Alexandria, and the waters of the Potomac River in Fairfax County north of Dyke Marsh and south of the City of Alexandria and between the shore and a line 1,000 feet from the Maryland State line, although waterfowl that have been wounded elsewhere may be pursued into this area.
- The waters of Kane Creek Waterfowl Refuge within the boundaries of Mason Neck State Park in Fairfax County.
- ◆ The waters of the Potomac River in Fairfax County adjacent to the Mason Neck National Wildlife Refuge extending from Sycamore Point northeasterly to Hallowing Point including all tributary creeks, guts, and inlets along the shoreline.
- ◆ The portion of the New River that lies entirely within the boundaries of the Radford Army Ammunition Plant in the counties of Montgomery and Pulaski.

#### Attention Hunters: Migratory Bird Banding Projects

The Department captures and leg-bands a number of migratory game bird species, including ducks, geese, brant, swans, and doves as part of our annual monitoring programs. Information from the recoveries of leg-banded birds provides biologists with important information on bird distribution, harvest rates, and survival. Hunters recovering any banded migratory game bird can keep the band, but remember to report the recovery information by either calling the toll-free number

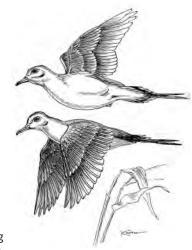


illustration ©Spike Knuth

1-800-327-BAND (this number is also written on the band), or reporting it online at the USGS website, www.reportband.gov. After reporting the band you will receive a "Certificate of Appreciation" that includes information about where and when the bird was banded. For more information on the banding projects or other Department migratory bird programs visit our website at www.HuntFishVA.com.

Please help us help you manage migratory game birds in Virginia by reporting banded birds.

1-800-327-BAND (2263) or www.reportband.gov

This number is ONLY for reporting USFWS bands. Private bands cannot be reported on this number.

## VIRGINIA MIGRATORY WATERFOWL CONSERVATION STAMP

The artwork for the 2012 Virginia State Migratory Waterfowl Conservation Stamp, painted by John Obolewicz, is entitled "Buffleheads at Cape Henry Light" and depicts a pair of bufflehead ducks arching up with outspread wings on the water, with the lighthouses at Cape Henry in the background.

The painting by Obolewicz was selected by a judging panel made up of VDGIF staff and representatives from the Northern



Virginia Chapter of Delta Waterfowl, the LOCS chapter of Waterfowl USA, Virginia Ducks Unlimited, and the Virginia Waterfowlers Association. All submitted entries were produced by Virginia artists.

John Obolewicz grew up in Sullivan County, New York, a place rich in woodlands and lakes, and near the Delaware River, which he describes as nature's schoolroom where he learned a love of the outdoors and a desire to capture its beauty in paintings.

This is the second time that Obolewicz has been selected as the winning artist for the Virginia Waterfowl Conservation Stamp. In 2009 he won the Virginia state duck stamp competition with a painting depicting a drake ring-neck duck stretching its wings with a duck blind and decoy in the background.

Obolewicz specializes in watercolors; his versatility is shown in paintings of landscapes, old farms, historic homes, hunting and fishing scenes, wildlife, and dog and horse portraits. In keeping with his love of the outdoors, John Obolewicz is an avid sportsman who enjoys fishing, hunting, golf, skiing, and boating. He and his wife Barbara and their daughter Haley reside in Powhatan, where he maintains his studio.

\* \* \* \*

A Migratory Waterfowl Conservation Stamp is required of all persons, unless license exempt, 16 years of age and older hunting or taking any migratory waterfowl (ducks, geese, brant and swans) within the commonwealth. The annual duck stamp can be purchased for a fee of \$10 (resident or nonresident) at license agents or clerks who sell Virginia hunting licenses, or from the Department's website.

Stamp collectors who would like the 2012 Virginia Migratory Waterfowl Conservation Collectors Stamp and/or print with artwork by John Obolewicz can request it by contacting Mike Hinton at du@hintons.org.

## Do You Use A Boat to Hunt?



### **Boating Safety Courses Are Required** www.HuntFishVA.com

#### Motorboat 10 hp or Greater

Age 30 or younger, July 1, 2012 Age 40 or younger, July 1, 2013 Age 45 or younger, July 1, 2014 Age 50 or younger, July 1, 2015 All ages by July 1, 2016

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# Permission to Hunt

over

-andowner signature:

on these dates permission to grant

he person whose name and address appears on the opposite side of this In deciding whether or not to allow this person to use your properorm has promised to use your land for outdoor recreation in an ethical way. Please read the signed pledge on the reverse side for specifics.

ty, please consider that he/she is putting his/her name and address on the line as assurance that they will abide by your wishes and conduct themselves as true sportsmen or sportswomen.

over

Landowner signature:

my property

# Permission to Hunt

In deciding whether or not to allow this person to use your proper-

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Hunter's Name	
Address	
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Auto License No Driver's License No.	
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1. Respect the landowner's property, only go where he designates and assume	and assume
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1. Observe all safety precautions and the traditions of good sportsmanship.	anship.
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SPORTSMAN'S PLEDGE	
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<ol> <li>lake every precaution against littering and fire.</li> <li>Obey the game, fish, and other wildlife laws.</li> </ol>	
	nanship.
Hunter's Signature	

#### Sunrise and Sunset Timetable-Richmond, Virginia

Times below are Eastern Standard Time and reflect Daylight Saving Time when in use.

Days of the	Sept Sunrise	. 2012 /Sunset		2012 /Sunset		20   2 /Sunset	Dec. Sunrise	2012 /Sunset	Jan. Sunrise	2013 /Sunset
Month	(a.m.)	(p.m.)	(a.m.)	(p.m.)	(a.m.)	(p.m.)	(a.m.)	(p.m.)	(a.m.)	(p.m.)
1	6:41	7:38	7:06	6:52	7:35	6:11	7:06	4:52	7:25	5:03
2	6:41	7:37	7:07	6:51	7:36	6:10	7:07	4:52	7:25	5:04
3	6:42	7:35	7:08	6:49	7:37	6:09	7:08	4:51	7:25	5:04
4	6:43	7:34	7:08	6:48	6:38	5:08	7:09	4:51	7:25	5:05
5	6:44	7:32	7:09	6:46	6:39	5:07	7:10	4:51	7:25	5:06
6	6:45	7:31	7:10	6:45	6:41	5:06	7:11	4:51	7:25	5:07
7	6:46	7:29	7:11	6:43	6:42	5:05	7:12	4:51	7:25	5:08
8	6:46	7:28	7:12	6:42	6:43	5:04	7:12	4:51	7:25	5:09
9	6:47	7:26	7:13	6:40	6:44	5:03	7:13	4:52	7:25	5:10
10	6: <del>4</del> 8	7:25	7:14	6:39	6:45	5:02	7:14	4:52	7:25	5:11
11	6:49	7:23	7:15	6:38	6:46	5:02	7:15	4:52	7:24	5:12
12	6:50	7:21	7:16	6:36	6:47	5:01	7:16	4:52	7:24	5:13
13	6:51	7:20	7:17	6:35	6:48	5:00	7:16	4:52	7:24	5:14
14	6:51	7:18	7:18	6:33	6:49	4:59	7:17	4:53	7:24	5:15
15	6:52	7:17	7:18	6:32	6:50	4:59	7:18	4:53	7:23	5:16
16	6:53	7:15	7:19	6:31	6:51	4:58	7:18	4:53	7:23	5:17
17	6:54	7:14	7:20	6:29	6:52	4:57	7:19	4:54	7:23	5:18
18	6:55	7:12	7:21	6:28	6:53	4:57	7:20	4:54	7:22	5:19
19	6:56	7:11	7:22	6:27	6:54	4:56	7:20	4:54	7:22	5:20
20	6:56	7:09	7:23	6:25	6:55	4:56	7:21	4:55	7:21	5:21
21	6:57	7:08	7:24	6:24	6:56	4:55	7:21	4:55	7:21	5:22
22	6:58	7:06	7:25	6:23	6:57	4:55	7:22	4:56	7:20	5:23
23	6:59	7:04	7:26	6:21	6:58	4:54	7:22	4:56	7:20	5:24
24	7:00	7:03	7:27	6:20	6:59	4:54	7:22	4:57	7:19	5:25
25	7:01	7:01	7:28	6:19	7:00	4:53	7:23	4:58	7:18	5:27
26	7:01	7:00	7:29	6:18	7:01	4:53	7:23	4:58	7:18	5:28
27	7:02	6:58	7:30	6:17	7:02	4:53	7:24	4:59	7:17	5:29
28	7:03	6:57	7:31	6:15	7:03	4:52	7:24	5:00	7:16	5:30
29	7:04	6:55	7:32	6:14	7:04	4:52	7:24	5:00	7:16	5:31
30	7:05	6:54	7:33	6:13	7:05	4:52	7:24	5:01	7:15	5:32
31			7:34	6:12			7:25	5:02	7:14	5:33

Apply corrections below to Richmond sunrise-sunset times to obtain official times at other Virginia locations.

Location	Correction	Location	Correction
Bristol	+19 minutes	Norfolk	-5 minutes
Cape Charles	-6 minutes	Norfolk	-5 minutes
Charlottesville	+4 minutes	Roanoke	+10 minutes
Chincoteague	-8 minutes	Tazewell	+16 minutes
Danville	+8 minutes	Williamsburg	-3 minutes
Fredericksburg	0 minutes	Winchester	+3 minutes

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